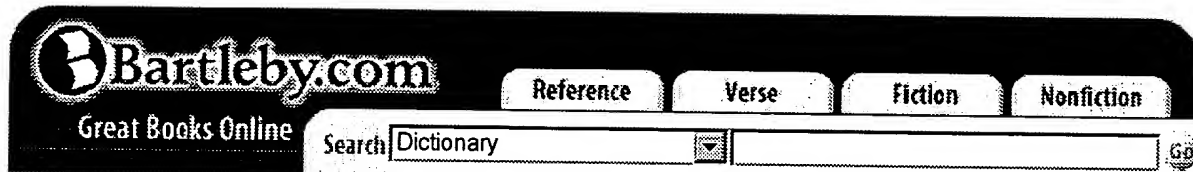


rheumatic fever

a subacute febrile syndrome occurring after group A β -hemolytic streptococcal infection (usually pharyngitis) and mediated by an immune response to the organism; most often seen in children and young adults; features include fever, myocarditis (causing tachycardia and sometimes acute cardiac failure), endocarditis (with valvular incompetence, followed after healing by scarring), and migratory polyarthritides; less often, subcutaneous nodules, erythema marginatum, and Sydenham chorea; relapses can occur after reinfection with streptococci.

Criteria for diagnosis of acute rheumatic fever were published by Jones in 1944. Regimens for prevention of initial and recurring attacks, and guidelines for treatment, have remained essentially unchanged for decades. Although acute rheumatic fever has ceased to be a major public health problem in the U.S., the incidence is still high in developing countries. In India, for example, where medical services have failed to keep pace with urbanization and industrialization, 250,000 new cases are diagnosed in school children annually. The incidence of rheumatic fever in the U.S., which had declined steadily for several decades after antibiotic treatment of streptococcal pharyngitis (strep throat) became standard, began rising again in the late 1980s and 1990s, with some urban clusters showing a 10-fold increase in incidence. Historically, rheumatic fever is a disease of children in lower socioeconomic strata. In a number of recent clusters, most of the victims were adults, and when children have been involved, they have often belonged to middle- and upper-class families. As many as 75% of patients denied any history of recent sore throat, and some of those who had been diagnosed with preceding strep throat had been treated with antibiotics. Cardiac and articular manifestations of rheumatic fever are considered autoimmune phenomena, due to a postulated rheumatogenic factor that has never been isolated. Pathogenicity in streptococci is known to be associated with the presence of an M protein in the cell membrane, which is also responsible for the appearance of a surface fuzz on microscopic examination of organisms, and the production of mucoid colonies on blood agar. Organisms implicated in several recent clusters of rheumatic fever have belonged to mucoid strains, particularly serotypes M 3 and M 18. Widespread antibiotic use in recent years, not all of it appropriate or justified by current medical knowledge, may have led to the resurgence of rheumatic fever by favoring the rise and spread of virulent strains of streptococcus, or by reducing the ability of certain populations to mount an immune response against them. Infectious disease authorities are currently reevaluating the diagnosis and management of streptococcal infection, particularly with respect to rapid slide tests and to drug regimens approved for use in the treatment of acute streptococcal pharyngitis and hence in the prophylaxis of rheumatic fever. See Jones criteria, under criterion.

Prev



[Home](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Titles](#) | [Authors](#)

[Encyclopedia](#) | [Dictionary](#) | [Thesaurus](#) | [Quotations](#) | [English Usage](#)

[Reference](#) > [American Heritage®](#) > [Dictionary](#)

< [rheumatic](#)

[rheumatic heart disease](#) >

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

rheumatic fever

NOUN: A severe infectious disease occurring chiefly in children, characterized by fever and painful inflammation of the joints and frequently resulting in permanent damage to the valves of the heart.

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by the Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

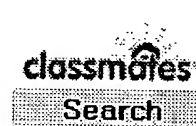
< [rheumatic](#)

[rheumatic heart disease](#) >

Search Amazon:

Click [here](#) to shop the [Bartleby Bookstore](#).

[Welcome](#) · [Press](#) · [Advertising](#) · [Linking](#) · [Terms of Use](#) · © 2003 [Bartleby.com](#)



rheumatism (roo'mă-tizm)

1. Obsolete term for rheumatic fever.
2. Indefinite term applied to various conditions with pain or other symptoms of articular origin or related to other elements of the musculoskeletal system.

[G. *rheumatismos*, rheuma, a flux]

Prev



The New York Times



Great Books Online

Reference

Verse

Fiction

Nonfiction

Search Dictionary



Home | Subjects | Titles | Authors

Encyclopedia

Dictionary

Thesaurus

Quotations

English Usage

Reference > American Heritage® > Dictionary

< polio

poliovirus >

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

poliomyelitis

SYLLABICATION: po·li·o·my·e·li·tis

PRONUNCIATION: pō'lē-ō-mī-ē-lī'tīs

NOUN: A highly infectious viral disease that chiefly affects children and, in its acute forms, causes inflammation of motor neurons of the spinal cord and brainstem, leading to paralysis, muscular atrophy, and often deformity. Through vaccination, the disease is preventable. Also called *infantile paralysis*.

ETYMOLOGY: New Latin : Greek *polios*, gray; see **pel**-¹ in Appendix I + *myelitis*.

OTHER FORMS: po'li-o-my'e-lit'ic (-līt'īk) —ADJECTIVE

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by the Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

< polio

poliovirus >

Search Amazon:



Click here to shop the [Bartleby Bookstore](#).

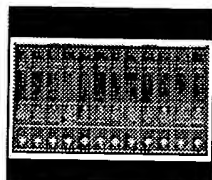
[Welcome](#) · [Press](#) · [Advertising](#) · [Linking](#) · [Terms of Use](#) · © 2003 [Bartleby.com](#)



- ▶ Home ▶ Help
- ▶ Word of the Day
- ▶ Word Games
- ▶ Word for the Wise
- ▶ Books and CDs
- ▶ Online Education
- ▶ Company Info
- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Network Options
- ▶ Language Zone
- ▶ The Lighter Side
- ▶ Site Map



Shopping



The Annals of America
Price: USD \$395.00



Merriam-Webster's
Collegiate Dictionary
& Thesaurus CD-ROM
Price: USD \$21.20
You save 15%!

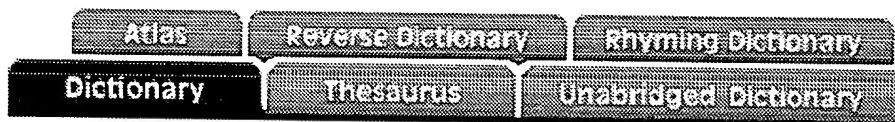
Oxford Dictionary Store

Save up to 30% at Amazon on Oxford Dictionaries. Save Now! affiliate

Free Financial Dictionary

Investment definitions and terms Information for serious investors

Merriam-Webster DICTIONARY



One entry found for **eczema**.

Main Entry: **ec·ze·ma**

Pronunciation: ig-'zE-m&, 'eg-z&-m&, 'ek-s&-

Function: *noun*

Etymology: New Latin, from Greek *ekzema*, from *ekzein* to erupt, from *ex-* out + *zein* to boil -- more at [EX-](#), [YEAST](#)

Date: circa 1753

: an inflammatory condition of the skin characterized by redness, itching, and oozing vesicular lesions which become scaly, crusted, or hardened

- **ec·zem·a·tous** /ig-'ze-m&-t&s/ *adjective*

Get the **Top 10 Most Popular Sites for "eczema"**

For **More Information on "eczema"** go to Britannica.com

Find **Photos, Magazines and Newspaper Articles about "eczema"** at eLibrary. Free registration required.

▶ Search the Unabridged Dictionary on-line

and enjoy enhanced versions of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary and Thesaurus at Merriam-Webster Unabridged.

▶ A new look (and sound!) for Merriam-Webster's Word of the Day

Along with a dynamic new easy-to-read format, our popular daily dose of word power now includes audio pronunciations. Subscribe today!

▶ Listen to Word for the Wise radio programs

Listen to broadcasts or read transcripts of previous Word for the Wise programs on public radio.

▶ One-stop shopping for the adult learner

Visit [ClassesUSA](http://ClassesUSA.com) for a wide range of online education.

Pronunciation Symbols

Click on the example word to hear it pronounced.

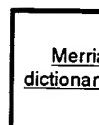
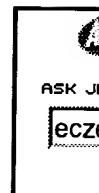
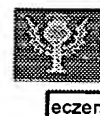
\ə\ as a and u in [abut](#)

\e\ as e in [bet](#)

\ə\ as aw in [law](#)



Sign up
Me
Webste
the Di
with



WEST Search History

DATE: Tuesday, April 15, 2003

Set Name Query

side by side

Hit Count Set Name

result set

DB=USPT,JPAB,EPAB,DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ

L37	l13 and l1	0	L37
L36	(l1 or l2) and (l13)	0	L36
L35	L3 and (l13)	0	L35
L34	L3 same (l13)	0	L34
L33	L3 near3 (l13)	0	L33
L32	L3 near3 (l12)	9	L32
L31	L3 same (l12)	184	L31
L30	L3 same (l12 or l13)	184	L30
L29	L3 same l9	4	L29
L28	L1 and l9	146	L28
L27	L1 near3 l9	2	L27
L26	L3 near3 l9	0	L26
L25	L2 near3 l9	0	L25
L24	L2 and l8	12	L24
L23	L2 near3 l8	0	L23
L22	L3 and l11	66	L22
L21	L3 and l8	24	L21
L20	L3 near3 l8	0	L20
L19	L3 near3 l7	8	L19
L18	L16 and l6	21	L18
L17	L16n and l6	0	L17
L16	l3 near3 l5	2097	L16
L15	l3 and l4	16	L15
L14	l3 near3 l4	1	L14
L13	x\$1ray near3 burn	26	L13
L12	eczema\$5	8432	L12
L11	paralysis	4543	L11
L10	paralysis deformans	1	L10
L9	poliomyelitis or poliomyeloencephalitis or poliomyelopathy or poliomyelencephalitis or polioencephalopathy or polioencephalomyelitis or polioencephalomeningomyelitis	911	L9
L8	poliomyelitis or poliomyelencephalitis	909	L8

• L7	(high blood pressure or low blood pressure or hypertension or hypotension or hypopiesis or hyperpiesis or hyperpieisa or hypertensive or hypotensive)	49898	L7
L6	phlebit\$3	819	L6
L5	arthriti\$2	41977	L5
L4	sciatic\$3	1911	L4
L3	(L2 or l1) near5 syndrome	2426	L3
L2	(anti\$1rheumat\$5)	7438	L2
<i>DB=DWPI,USPT,EPAB,JPAB; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
L1	(rheumatic or rheumatism or rheumat\$5)	35560	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY